

Appln No. 10/075,473
Amdt date December 28, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

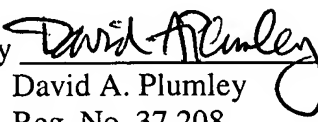
Claims 1-6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17-20, 22, and 24-26, as amended, remain in this application. In the Office action dated November 2, 2004, the examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 22 as adding new matter. For claims 1, 10 and 17, the examiner objects to the recitation of the temperature ranges "from about 400°C to about 500°C" and "from about 700°C to 900°C." Because the ranges of "from 400°C to 500°C" and "from 700°C to 900°C" were present in original claims, it is applicant's understanding that the examiner's objection is over the inclusion of the word "about," and in an effort to hasten allowance, applicant has deleted that word from the subject claims. Similarly, claims 8, 15 and 22 are rejected for inclusion of the word "about" and those instances of the word have been deleted from the claims.

The examiner has further rejected claim 1 as lacking antecedent basis for the term "the heat-treating step." Applicant has amended this term to "heat-treating" as suggested by the examiner. Though the examiner did not object to similar language in claims 10 and 17, those claims have been amended as well. Applicant submits that these claims are all in condition for allowance.

The examiner objected to claims 2-6, 11-13, 18-20 and 24-26 as dependent on rejected base claims. However, since the base claims are now allowable, applicant requests the withdrawal of this objection and the allowance of these claims.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17-20, 22, and 24-26 remain in this application and applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues, the examiner is asked to contact applicant's counsel at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
David A. Plumley
Reg. No. 37,208
626/795-9900

DAP/clb
CLS PAS600181.1-12/27/04 4:03 PM